

Established February, 1845.

PRICE, \$2 PER MONTH

07-11-11

they will not be recognised,
No Fire Insurance has been effected.
G. DE CHAMPEAUX,
Agent.

Entertainment.

THEATRE ROYAL CITY HALL.

Under the Distinguished Patronage of
H. E. Hon. W. H. MAHSE, C.M.G., Acting
Governor.
H. E. Major-General CAMERON, C.B., Com-
manding the Forces.

TO-MORROW EVENING.

16th January, 1887,
will be produced a

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC ENTERTAINMENT.

Consisting of
PART I.

Vocal, Instrumental, and Variety
ENTERTAINMENT,
in which the following have kindly con-
sented to assist:—

Lieut.-Col. ANDERSON.
Herr VON WILHE.
Major COCHRANE.
Staff-Sergeant MILLS.
Sergeant ATTER, R.E.
Sergeant ATKINS, R.A.

By kind permission of the Officers of the
2nd Northampton Regiment, the Band will
perform a glee and play selections during
the evening. It is hoped that Step Dancing
will also be introduced.

PART II.

The Burlesque of "BUTTERCUP BOW-
ER" as lately produced at the *Alfred*
Fete in the Public Gardens.

The Proceeds of the Entertainment will
be given to the fund for providing the An-
nual Feast to Children of the N. C. O's
and Men of the Garrison.

Doors open at 8.30, to commence at 9.

PRICES OF ADMISSION:
Dress Circle and Reserved Seats.....\$1.00
Unreserved Seats (with tickets) 0.50
Back Seats.....0.25
(with tickets only)

Married Soldiers with their Wives and
Children admitted free, (with tickets) to
the Unreserved Seats.

Tickets for the Dress Circle and Re-
served Seats can be obtained on and after
MONDAY, the 10th instant, from Messrs.
KELLY & WALSH, where a Plan of the
House can be seen.

For other Seats, and Free Tickets, apply
to the Garrison Sergeant Major.

"GOD SAVE THE QUEEN."
W. F. D. COCHRANE,
Major.

Hongkong, January 14, 1887. 63

To-day's Advertisements.

STEAM TO SHANGHAI.

The P. & O. S. N. Co.'s
Steamship
Nepaul
will leave for the above
place TO-MORROW (Saturday), the 15th
instant, at 4 p.m.

E. I. WOODIN,
Acting Superintendent.

P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Office,
Hongkong, January 14, 1887. 89

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY & FOCHOW.

The Co's Steamship
Nepaul
Captain Pocock, will be
despatched for the above
Ports on TUESDAY, the 18th instant, at
Daylight.

For Freight or Passage, apply to
DOUGLAS LARBAK & Co.,
General Managers.

Hongkong, January 14, 1887. 79

NOTICE.

THE INTEREST AND RESPONSIBILITY OF
MR. LOUIS PIRON in our Firm
ceased on the 1st January, 1887.

HAIN, PIRON & Co.

Mr. GEORGE SACSE has been ad-
mitted a Partner in our Firm from the 1st
of January, 1887.

HAIN, PIRON & Co.
Hongkong, January 14, 1887. 81

Not Responsible for Debts.

Neither the Captain, the Agents, nor
Owners will be Responsible for
any Debt contracted by the Officers or
Crew of the following Vessels, during
their stay in Hongkong Harbour:—

ANOURI, German brig, Captain John
Focke. Schellhass & Co.

DANISH MONARCH, Brit. steamer, Capt.
W. H. Burgey. Adams, Ball & Co.

EXOS SOULS, American ship, Capt. J. T.
Soule. Master.

ISOLUS, British brig, Capt. James
Hayes. Master.

SARAH HIGGINS, American ship, Capt. A.
Morgan. Ed. Schellhass & Co.

VENTURA, Spanish brig, Captain R.
Ratinal. Remedios & Co.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

January 13, 1887:—

Olympia, German steamer, 783 P. Moller,
Saigon January 8, General.—SHESSSEN &
Co.

Duburg, German steamer, 921, C. F. Ber-
telsen, Singapore January 5, General.—
BUN HIN CHAN.

Denderos, German steamer, 1,157, A. E.
Luthjens, Saigon January 9, Rico and
Paddy.—SHESSSEN & Co.

January 14:—

Namoo, British steamer, 803, T. G. Pocock,
Foolchow January 11, Amoy 13, and Swat-
tow 15, General.—DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP CO.

Seville, French steamer, 470, Porteau,
Haiphong Jan. 11, General.—CARMOWITZ &
Co.

Iduna, German steamer, 297, N. Enke,
Haiphong January 11, General.—A. R.
MARKY.

Nepaul, British steamer, 1,987, T. J.
Allderton, London November 25, and Singa-
pore January 8, Mails and General.—P. &
O. S. N. Co.

Knechtling, British steamer, 1,354, Bal-
bernie, Shanghai January 11, General.—
JARDINE, MATHISON & Co.

DEPARTURES.

January 14:—

Taiyuan, for Shanghai.
John D. Brewer, for Cebu.

Lotte Inferno, for Hongkong.

Wingung, for Singapore and Calcutta.

Diamond, for Manila.

Ningpo, for Shanghai.

Schooner, for Whampoa.

Telamania, for Singapore and London.

Demetrios, for Amoy and Hongkong.

Knechtling, for Whampoa.

CLEARED.

Hardline, for New York.

Velocity, for Honolulu.

Duburg, for Swatow.

PASSING.

Per Olympia, from Saigon, Capt. Hutton,
2nd officer, and 1 sailor of the British str.
Stratheden, and 1 Chinese.

Per Duburg, from Singapore, Captain
Kahloke, and 324 Chinese.

Per Namoo, from Coast Ports, Mrs.
Lowth, Miss Piersford, Rev. J. Cook, and
Mr. H. Hutchings, and 123 Chinese.

Per Iduna, from Haiphong, Messrs Ed.
Rice, Ingenieur de la Marine, and 34
Chinese.

Per Nepaul, for Hongkong: from Lon-
don, Messrs Bibby, Giddum, Miss Har-
ness, and Mr. Daniel; from Venice, Mr.
Brooke; from Brindisi, Mr. and Mrs. Hirt,
and Mr. Coombs; from Penang, 263 Chi-
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MEMOS. FOR TO-MORROW.

Shipping.
Noon.—Berenice leaves for Trieste, &c.
3 p.m.—Kwongyung leaves for S'hai, &c.
4 p.m.—Nepaul leaves for Shanghai.

Auctions.
2 p.m.—Auction of Japanese Ware, &c.,
at Mr. J. M. Armstrong's.

Amusements.
9 p.m.—Performances at the City Hall.

A. S. WATSON & Co., Ltd.,
ARE NOW OFFERING
FOR SALE AT GREATLY
REDUCED PRICES,
THE REMAINDER OF THEIR
SEASON'S STOCK
OF
CHRISTMAS CONFECTIONERY,
comprising:
CRYSTALLIZED FRUIT,
APPROXIMATES, GERMENES, &c.,
BOXED FRUITS, FIGS,
RAISINS, JORDAN ALMONDS,
ASSORTED FRENCH SWEETS,
CHOCOLATES, FANCY BOXES,
CRACKERS,
&c., &c., &c.

A. S. Watson & Co., Limited,
HONGKONG DISPENSARY,
Hongkong, January 13, 1887. 77

On the 6th instant, at H. B. M.'s Con-
sulate-General Shanghai, BARRINGTON DAVIS
to ELIZABETH SINNOTT, both of Shanghai.

At Shanghai on the 9th January, 1887,
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At Tianjin, suddenly, on the 27th Dec.,
ELLY, the beloved wife of E. Morris.

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THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S REPORT FOR 1886.

The following Report was presented to the Legislative Council, by command of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, on the 14th January, 1887:

General Post Office.

Sir,—I have the honour to report upon the working of the Post Office in Hongkong and China during the year 1886.

1. The exchange of parcels with the United Kingdom established towards the end of 1885 has been going on with great regularity and smoothness, whilst the steadily increasing numbers of parcels forwarded show that it is appreciated by the public. During the year under review 1,193 parcels have been forwarded from Hongkong to the United Kingdom, whilst 3,516 have been received, making a total of 4,709 parcels exchanged, almost without a complaint of any kind. There have been, of course, as it was foreseen there would be, a few false alarms of parcels being damaged by accident on the mail steamer. The damage, however, was trifling, and compensation was paid in the only case where loss had been sustained. By the last mail in the year several parcels were received in a damaged state from having been put into a box with a package containing opium, which had been forwarded, and which should not have been so forwarded, unless in suitcases. In this case no serious damage resulted to the contents of the parcels. With these exceptions the parcels have all turned out in good order. It is observed that parcels are sent by Parcel Post presumably because they do not get knocked about as do articles which are forwarded in mail bags. The London Post Office complains of the insecure way in which many parcels are packed by the carriers, and of the want of care of their contents on the way, and also of the inaccuracy with which contents are described. Thus a parcel stated by the sender to contain silk handkerchiefs, and a gold ring, is found on examination to contain a pair of boots, a tea caddy, a gold ring, a bead necklace, a puzzle and a pair of ivory soldiers. Perhaps this notice may tend to induce more care as to both of these matters.

2. The limit of weight for parcels to the United Kingdom and a good many other countries has been raised from 7 to 11 lb., whilst facilities have been provided for forwarding parcels to most of the countries of Europe, to Egypt, and to the Colonies. Direct parcel exchanges with Malta and Gibraltar have also been established. Negotiations have been commenced with several of the Australian Colonies for the establishment of an exchange of parcels, and these are progressing favourably.

3. The number of Transit Parcels, as they are called (that is of parcels sent to or from Colonies and foreign countries through London) has not been great. The largest number of parcels sent to the Colonies was 1,193, and the largest number of parcels sent to foreign countries was 1,193. The following return shows the exchanges of Transit Parcels for the year:

Destination	Number of Parcels
Assam	1
Australia	1
Batavia	1
Bombay	1
Brussels	1
Calcutta	1
Canton	1
Cebu	1
Colon	1
Hankow	1
Hongkong	1
India	1
Japan	1
London	1
Lyons	1
Manila	1
Medan	1
Penang	1
Peking	1
Rangoon	1
Singapore	1
Sourabaya	1
Tientsin	1
Yokohama	1

Totals, 212 6

5. By far the greater number of parcels sent contain presents of some kind, whilst the greater number of those sent out contain supplies, such as stationery, clothing, &c. The largest parcel mailed despatched was that of November 8th (the Christmas mail) by which 314 parcels, weighing 888 lb. (or 4 cwt. 4 lb.) were forwarded. The largest parcel received was that which arrived here on December 17th, with 246 parcels weighing 542 lb.

6. A new mail service between Bremen, London, and Hongkong, and Japan has been commenced by the Pacific Mail Company. The first mail left for Hongkong on December 17th, and the first mail arrived here on December 24th. The service is very important, and it is to be expected that it will be a great success. The Pacific Mail Company has been established, and it is to be expected that it will be a great success. The Pacific Mail Company has been established, and it is to be expected that it will be a great success.

7. The following figures as to the arrivals of the first two German mails in London may be of interest.

Mail	Arrival
German Mail, Sept.	3
German Mail, Oct.	5
German Mail, Nov.	3
German Mail, Dec.	4

8. A correspondence has taken place between the Imperial Post Office, the Colonial Office, and this Government, as to the renewal of the contract for the delivery of the English mails between Hongkong and Shanghai. There were only three offers, those of the P. & O. Co., of Mr. Alfred Holt, and of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. One of the tenders of the Imperial Company has been accepted, the mails to be carried for £25,000 a year for ten years. The report of this Department on the subject will be found in the Appendix (B).

9. Although the proposed trans-Pacific line of steamers between Hongkong and British Columbia will not do much for this Colony so far as postal matters are concerned, its establishment is to be desired on many other grounds. Since the Pacific Mail Company has been established, the correspondence between Hongkong and San Francisco, and between San Francisco and the United States, has been greatly increased, and it is to be expected that it will be a great success.

10. The correspondence between the Pacific Mail Company and the United States Government, which led to the discontinuance of carrying inward mails from San Francisco by the Company's vessels, has been adjusted.

Every mail a sheet of letters is received from various Post Offices representing that this or that Register Article has not reached its destination. The same stereotyped answer is always sent, that it was delivered on such a day, and that the addressee signed a receipt for it. Nothing further is ever heard of these complaints, which generally arise from the sender's not having allowed time for the arrival of the correspondence. A case was recently notified in which a person resident in France had registered a letter for Peking, and within one week from the date of posting had complained of its non-delivery. With the best of intentions these parcels weighed nearly half a ton.

11. There has been no extension of Money Order business during the year, which is not a matter of regret, as the Money Order system was really proving too fast for the limited resources of the Post Office. It is, however, necessary to have more clerical assistance in the Money Order Office, and this has been provided without very much difficulty. The want of room, and the want of a suitable office, are, however, serious, and it is not so easy to devise. The business of the Money Order Office, like too much of the work of this Department, is carried on in a dark and crowded corner, where there is a great deal of work, and where every square inch is economized as if it were a ship's cabin.

12. This want of room is yearly becoming a more serious question. The Sanitary Board has been very judiciously considering the subject, and the Chinese staff are over-crowded. They certainly are according to European ideas, even according to Chinese ideas there is not much room to spare. When foreign countries begin to claim their international right to have direct Parcel exchanges with Hongkong, it will be very difficult to see where the necessary room is to come from. A little additional space may be gained by building, and then, unless it were possible to put on an additional storey, the limit will have been reached, and at such a sacrifice of light and air. The Colony will be face to face with a demand for a new Post Office. The present building is finished in 1865, and was evidently intended to be final. When the office is rebuilt it should be constructed, not for existing needs, but for those of twenty years later.

13. The limit of weight for parcels to the United Kingdom and a good many other countries has been raised from 7 to 11 lb., whilst facilities have been provided for forwarding parcels to most of the countries of Europe, to Egypt, and to the Colonies. Direct parcel exchanges with Malta and Gibraltar have also been established. Negotiations have been commenced with several of the Australian Colonies for the establishment of an exchange of parcels, and these are progressing favourably.

14. It may perhaps be permissible to point out how, in this Office, unlike most other Post Offices, everything has to be filtered through two languages, one of which is at least as imperfectly understood as the other. The clerks who use it. At home a postman reads the address on a letter and delivers it accordingly. Here he depends on one or two hastily written Chinese characters and if there happens to be a mistake in the handwriting, the letter is lost. It is to be expected that it will be a great success.

15. A Committee consisting of the Acting Harbour Master, the Director of the Observatory, and the Postmaster General was appointed to examine into the question of signalling the English mails from Kowloon Point. It was found impossible to give any efficient and inexpensive signal which would not clash with the weather signals made at that station. It was therefore recommended that the use of the Kowloon Point gun for mail signals should be discontinued. For some time past the signal has been given by the firing of a gun, which has been found to be a very effective signal.

16. In the meantime a direct telephone line has been opened between the Post Office and the Customs House, which would give the community here four hours notice of the approach of the mail. The telephone line has been opened, and it is to be expected that it will be a great success. The telephone line has been opened, and it is to be expected that it will be a great success.

17. There have been two casualties during the year. The steamer *Claymore* was wrecked on February 10th with coast mails on board, which were not recovered. Communication between the Coast Ports and Hongkong having been interrupted for several days by the Chinese New Year Festival, the *Claymore* was unfortunately exceptionally heavy. The *Madras* was lost with a mail for this Office from Nagasaki. Most of the correspondence was subsequently recovered by H. M. S. *Medea*, and forwarded to destination.

18. The service to Japan has gone on fairly well, the mails having been forwarded without any excessive delay. The English mail of January 22nd was sent on to Kobe in the *City of Rio* (via Yokohama). It would have been better to keep it here a couple of days longer for the *Zambesi*, but the time of the departure was not known when that vessel would start. The English mail of September 3 was sent to Yokohama in the *Claymore*, whereas it should have been kept for the *Stettin*. The German service was a little out of the way, the *Stettin* being not notified, and it was not known that there would be a German Packet leaving within a day or two. As far as is known these were the only occasions on which this Office failed to secure the earliest opportunity for mail to Japan and Hongkong. The French mail for Yokohama (of October 22nd) in which it was so doubtful whether the steamer would arrive first that this Office would not take the responsibility of diverting the mail from its ordinary route to the Colonies, and it was not known that the *Claymore* was to be sent to Yokohama, thus saving the Yokohama community a delay of probably at least two days.

19. The abolition of accounts with the London Office, referred to in the last Annual Report as under consideration, has been carried out, and our relations with the United Kingdom are now simply those of the Postal Union, with a special payment of £6,000 a year in addition. The saving of labour, copying, &c. is very considerable.

20. The state of several of our Postal Agencies, specially those of Amoy and Foochow, was taken into serious consideration by the Government on the earnest representations of the Government. It was felt that the condition of affairs could not be allowed to go on, and that, notwithstanding the fact that Hongkong is to be added with the whole expense of improving these Agencies, improved they must be.

A letter was handed to a Chinese postman who was told to take it to Mr. X. "Do you want to be killed?" he asked. "No," he said, "but I don't want to be killed." The letter was not delivered, and the postman was killed. The letter was not delivered, and the postman was killed.

21. The Estimates for this year would accordingly have embodied provision for a considerable increase of staff at Amoy, had not a proposal been made which promised an entirely new departure. Mr. Commissioner Kopp, on behalf of the Chinese Government, to take over, as a step towards the establishment of a national Post Office, the Postal work carried on by this Government at Amoy, but a single count on the part of the Treasury would have shown that the proposal would be found in the Appendix (C).

22. Mr. Kopp's scheme has of course raised much discussion, especially in Shanghai, where a public meeting was convened to consider the matter. The tone both of the meeting, and of the articles and correspondence in the newspapers, was most fair, reasonable, and moderate. Some of the objections raised possess much force, and some are very good. It is not so easy to see how the proposal can be regarded as a real obstacle to the proposal.

23. How China may elect to develop her Postal system is not in any special way the business of Hongkong, but a single count on the subject may perhaps be allowable. To demand that so huge an Empire shall be covered with a network of courier services organised by the Imperial Government before that Government may attempt the much more modest task of carrying on the small coast service at present conducted by this Colony, is, as one of the speakers at Shanghai graphically put it, like insisting that a boy shall not get near the water till he is able to swim. Any successful postal system in China must begin from the coast, and with steam communication. It may then possibly be pushed up the rivers as steamers are admitted to them, and extended inland as the country is opened up. To make haste slowly should be the motto, and the avoidance of huge schemes like a pestilence the policy of the Chinese Post Office of the immediate future.

24. Should the proposal of the Chinese Government not be accepted, it will be absolutely necessary to improve our Postal Agencies. They cannot be left as they are. On the other hand, no suggestion to open additional Agencies at the expense of this Government should be entertained. The subject is surrounded with difficulties, and the sweeping measures so often advocated, besides being ruinously expensive, would make the Postal Department here a nuisance and a source of trouble to the community.

25. The time has perhaps arrived when something should be done to bring the Chinese correspondence transmitted to and from this Colony more under control. There are too many letters, and the current of correspondence is too much in the hands of a few Chinese letters, not to Chinese ports where there is no national Post Office to receive them, but to San Francisco, Australia, the Straits Settlements, and other places. The subject is surrounded with difficulties, and the sweeping measures so often advocated, besides being ruinously expensive, would make the Postal Department here a nuisance and a source of trouble to the community.

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